

ICT4D

WEEK 1

Meaning of Development

From Social Science Perspective

What are intended to be covered?

- What meaning and connotations are conveyed by the word 'development'
- Are these meanings fixed?
- Is development a discourse? A social construct?
- Alternative meanings and models of development

Think of these conditions...Do they denote development?

- A small fruit plant, with time, grown into a big tree but doesn't bear any fruit.
- A small child became big strong men and joined gang of Robbers
- A poor community, yet living harmoniously, found gold mines, became rich & resourceful, but excess money bred competition, jealousy, possessive individualism, and disharmony
- A big Dam over a river gave water, electricity, jobs making many people well off, but displaced thousands of poor tribals
- India when colonized got Railways, Telegraph, Ports, Modern Industries, modern education and medical system, and social reforms
- A nation exhausted all its vital resources to grow its GDP manyfold in short time

Meaning of the word ‘Development’

- Dictionary meaning
 - an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation.
 - the process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced (Cambridge dictionary)
 - Change from an existing to desired state
- Synonyms
 - Evolution, growth, progress, maturing, advancement, moving forward, expansion, spread, blossoming, flourishing

Growth vs Development

- Growth:
 - the process of increasing in size.
 - An increase, as in size, number, value, or strength; extension or expansion.
- Growth is quantitative and value neutral. It may have a positive or a negative sign
- Development denotes a qualitative change which is always value positive- Development is value judgemental concept
- Development indicates a positive growth which is considered qualitatively good
- Examples:
 - **Growth**: population increasing by 10 %; **Development**: population becoming more healthy, literate, and resourceful
 - **Growth**: child growing to adulthood with increased size, weight; **Development**: the grown up man becomes well groomed good human being

Development: what, for whom, and how?

- **Development for whom? Referent point?**
- **Nation?**
 - faster growth of national resources(GDP), formidable security, stable Government, more relative powers and capabilities, etc.
- **Civil Society/communities/people?**
 - Civil liberties and rights, socio-economic welfare, material prosperity, harmony, social solidarity, etc.
- **Individual?**
 - Adequate material resources, social well-being, civil liberties & rights, capabilities and choices, etc.
- **who has the power to do Development and to whom?**
 - Developed vs. Underdeveloped
 - External vs self-Development
- **How?**
 - Methods, mechanisms, and pathways of development

Development as Discourse

Development as 'Discourse'

- **Discourse:**

- Special terminology and language used to create identities, define structures, and explain behaviour in a particular socio-cultural context or domain.
- Social construction of reality, assigning meanings to idea/concept
- How identity, structure, and behaviour are normalized and institutionalized
- **Examples:** Modernity, Nationalism, 3rd World, Liberalisation, masculinity/femininity, Communal, 'Cool', 'Chill'

- **Contemporary meaning of Development**

- Material prosperity by fast growth in resources(income/wealth), industrialisation, scientific & technological innovations, automation, etc.
- Closely linked to idea of **modernisation**- modern political values & norms(democracy, Justice, Liberty, Equality, Rights), modern life style (individualistic, materialistic, scientific, reasoned/rational)
- How and by whom the contemporary discourse of Development was created?

Discourse of Development: Genealogy

- In ancient period, philosophers considered human progress cyclical
 - **Aristotle**- virtuous conditions degenerate over time, then regenerate
- Enlightenment period(18th century Europe)- progress in human civilization **linear**, may be **continuous** with scientific evolution- liberal conception of development
- **Hegel**: Continuous Progress in human civilization through development of ideas- *thesis-antithesis- synthesis*
- **Marx**: development is continuous progression in mode of production through class struggle
- 1949: **Truman's** famous address gave contemporary discourse of development
 - Developed vs underdeveloped
 - Development as faster production, and material well-being by scientific, technocratic methods by experts and by employing capital
 - Development is Modernization
 - Universal concept, mechanisms across all socio-cultural contexts

Political Dimension: Development and Modernisation theory

- During 1950s-70s, the Western World led by USA created the discourse of Development and modernization
- **'Developmentalism'** - conceptual paradigm
 - there is a fixed path of development & modernization as traversed by western nations; by following the same path, poor 3rd world nations would also become developed.
- **Development:**
 - Rapid industrialization, free trade, leverage market, fast GDP growth, economic prosperity, material comforts, etc.
- **Modernization:**
 - Liberal Democracy, modern institutions, modern education, health, transport, communication system; modern political values- Liberty, Rights, Equality, pluralism, secularism, reason/rationality, scientific temper, individual autonomy, etc.
- In western discourse development is universal, objective, scientific, technocratic, progressive, and politically neutral

Challenges to Developmentalism : Dependency Theory

- **Dependency theory** criticized the dominant model of development as 'Eurocentric', furthering the capitalist interests of the 'West'.
- **Core vs Periphery**
 - Global economic system- **core**- developed nations of 'West'; **periphery**: poor nations of 3rd world
- **Metropolitan vs satellite**
 - Developed region of poor 3rd world nations act as satellite of Metropolitan centers in West
 - Metro- satellite pattern in underdeveloped nation
- **'Development of Underdevelopment'**
- In this view ideology, interest, and politics permeate the discourse of development

Human Development

Human Development-1/3

- Development is all about enlarging people's choices in order to lead long, healthy lives with dignity (**Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq**)
- Development is increasing freedom through social and political institutions and processes (**Prof Amartya Sen**)
- Freedom is capabilities to do desired things and achieve well-being
- Human Development:
 - Resources & capabilities to make choices to have meaningful life
 - Process of improving human life, making it more meaningful- human flourishing
 - **By** (as given by Economist **Michael Todaro**)
 - 1. increase standard of living ;
 - 2. Increasing range of choices- increase freedom;
 - 3. Create conditions conducive to ensure self-esteem and dignity of individuals

Human Development-2/3

- **3 dimensions:** access to resources, health and education
- **4 Pillars:** equity, sustainability, productivity and empowerment
- **4 Approach:** Income approach; Welfare approach; Minimum needs approach; Capabilities approach

Human Development-3/3

- **Negative and Positive conceptions of human Development**

- Negative: modern, western, liberal conception
 - Equality of opportunity, Rights, Liberty, material resources, physical comforts/pleasure
 - Negative freedom, Negative Rights
- Positive: ancient, normative, philosophical
 - Flourishment of human life, happiness, self-autonomy, self-realization, moral perfection
 - Positive freedom, positive rights

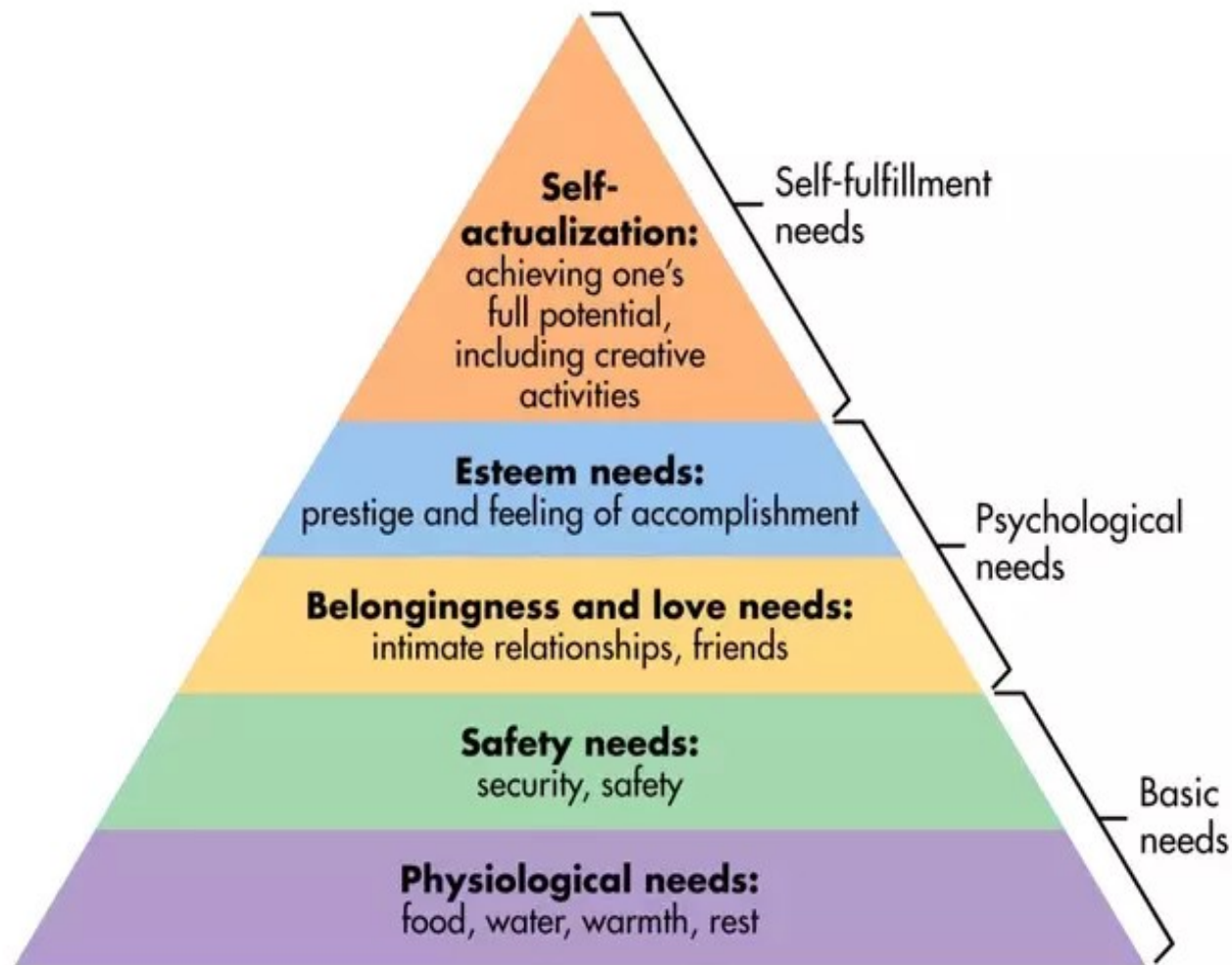
- **Human Development Index(HDI):**

- By UNDP, composite index between 0-1 to denote human Development in a country
- Proxy indicators
 - Access to resources(living standard)- per capita GNP
 - Long and healthy life- life expectancy at birth
 - being knowledgeable- mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age

Limitations of HDI:

- Measures attainments Not shortfall in human development
 - **Human poverty index:** The probability of not surviving till the age of 40, the adult illiteracy rate, the number of people who do not have access to clean water, the number of small children who are underweight, etc.
- Does not say anything about the **distribution**
 - Ex: per capita GNP grew by 10 % but median per capita income reduced by 10%, persons below poverty line increased by 10 %, how?
- Does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, and positive development

Psychological dimension : Maslow's hierarchy of needs



Theory of human developmental psychology

Once a lower level need is met, more or less, one start to feel higher level need

Human develops by rising on the need hierarchy

Flourished, fulfilled life is one which could meet the Self-actualization need

Alternate Conceptions of Development

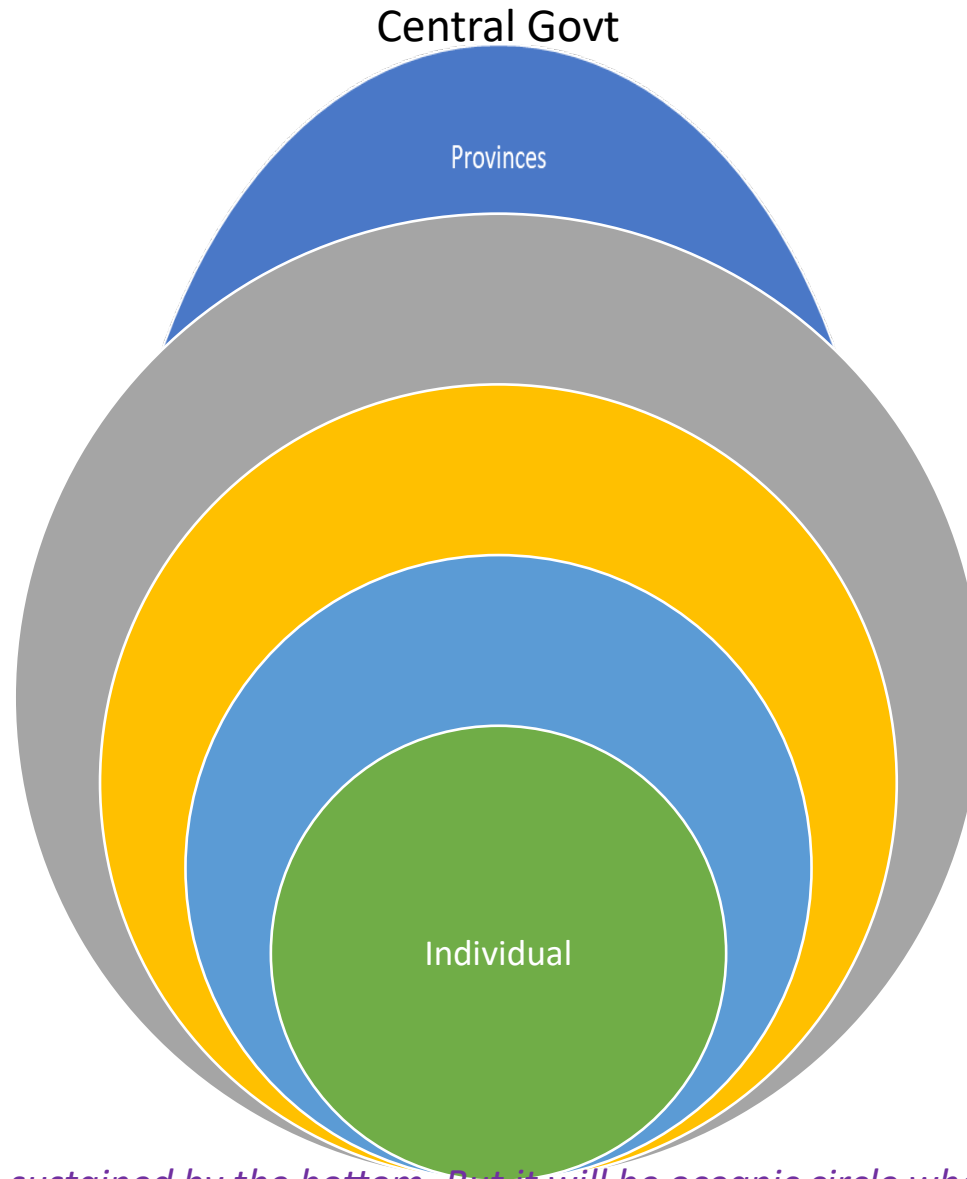
Gandhian model

Marx's model

Gandhian Notion of Development

- **Development is Freedom- Swaraj**
- **For individual** it denoted self-mastery, self-control, self-restrain, self-realization, moral goodness & perfectibility
- **For Community** it meant self-governing autonomous community life without any formal coercive authority; full rights of civil liberties, and civil disobedience against any unjust actions/law of the state/govt
- **For political economy** it denoted classless economic order, equal honour/dignity for all kinds of labour, self-renunciation(limiting our wants), Trusteeship
- It also meant **freedom from want**, material possession, ego, bondage of so called modern materialistic life- modern large machine, faster transport system, competition/conflict-court/lawyer, modern medical system-doctors, etc.
- **In sum**, it was his vision of an ideal civilisation based on **Non-violence** (अहिंसा), **Truth**, and moral **duty** (Dharma) in contrast to western modern civilisation based on violence/force, material possession, and Rights

Gandhian Oceanic Circles: Community of Communities



“Life will not be a pyramid with the apex sustained by the bottom. But it will be oceanic circle whose centre will be the individual always ready to perish for the village, the latter ready to perish for the circle of villages, till at last the whole becomes one life composed of individuals, never aggressive in their arrogance, but ever humble, sharing the majesty of the oceanic circle of which they are integral units.”

Marxian concept of Development

- Development is historical evolution in mode of production through class struggle
- **Primitive** subsistence society--→**master-slave** society--→ **Feudal** Society(lord-serf)--→ **Capitalist** society(capitalist-labourer)--→ **Socialist** society (Dictatorship of Proletariats') --→ **Communist** Society
- **Communist Society- Final stage of development**
 - Classless, stateless society
 - Development is freedom
 - True freedom is social production in which each individual contribute freely as per his ability, and get as per one's need and relate to fellow man as equal
 - Human development is Man working to realise essence of being human, act of self-realization
 - *“it will be possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticize after dinner, doing just that which gives me pleasure without ever becoming a hunter, fisherman, shepherd or critic. This will be the real state of freedom for man from alienation and exploitation”* (Marx)

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

BE SAFE ...GOOD WISHES !

Dimensions of development

- Economic
- Social
- Cultural
- Political
- Environmental
- Human

The Republican Trickle-Down Theory



"He says that the more he eats the more crumbs we will get."

The principle that the poor, who must subsist on table scraps dropped by the rich, can best be served by giving the rich bigger meals.

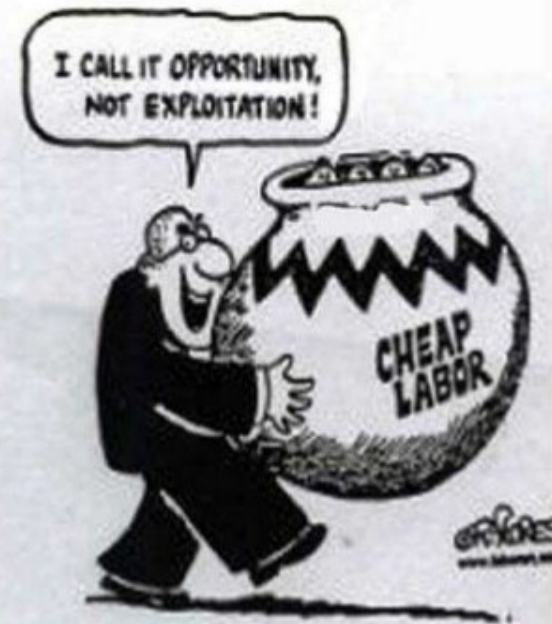
-William Blum

Journal of Pro-Poor Growth

An International Perspective



Published by:
Alicia Journals Publishing



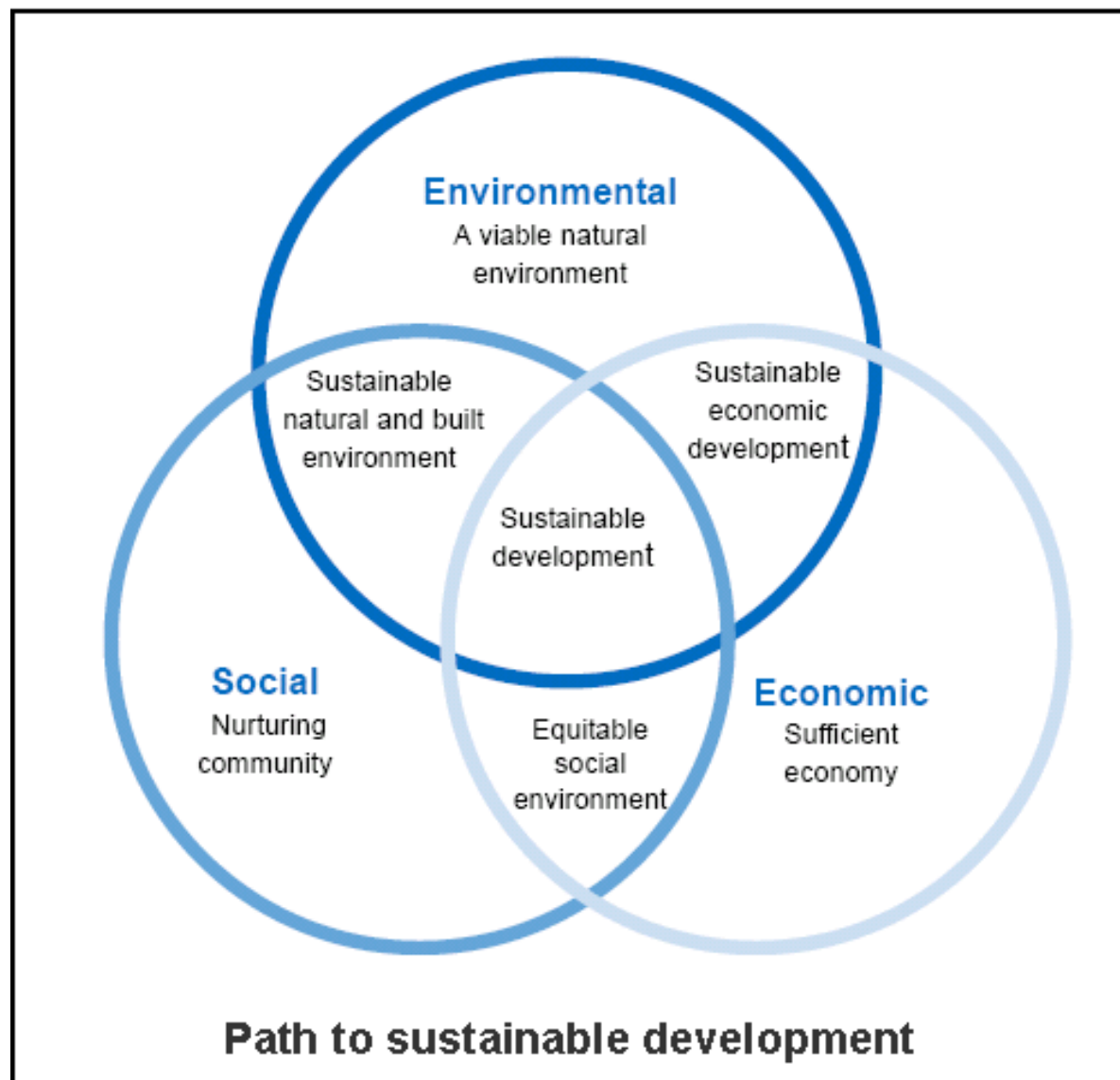
➤ **Low-wage industry-led**



**Low-wage
labour-intensive
export-led**



➤ **Agriculture-based**



Approaches to Development

- Income Approach
- Welfare Approach
- Basic Needs Approach
- Rights Based Approach
- Capability Approach